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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventors: M. TAKEDA, et al. Art Unit: 3734

Application No.: 10/684,420

Filed: October 15, 2003

For: VALVE UNIT AND FLUID CONTROL CHIP

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

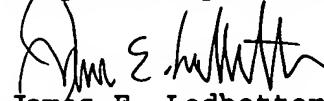
Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to Rules 56 and 99, Applicants hereby call the attention of the Patent Office to the reference(s) listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. All of these references were cited in an International Search Report dated January 19, 2004 (copy attached). US '872 is of record (IDS filed October 15, 2003).

Applicants present this art so that the Patent Office may, in the first instance, determine any relevancy thereof to the presently claimed invention, see Beckman Instruments, Inc. v. Chemtronics, Inc., 439 F.2d 1369, 1380, 165 USPQ 355, 364 (5th Cir. 1970). Also see Patent Office Rules 104 and 106. Applicants respectfully request that this art be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and made of record herein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue herefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

Date: June 22, 2004

JEL/spp

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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 4/92) Patent and Trademark Office	<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</b> <b>L8612.03104</b>	<b>SERIAL NO.</b> <b>10/684,420</b>
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		
(Use several sheets if necessary)		
		
<b>APPLICANT</b> <b>M. TAKEDA, et al.</b>		
<b>FILING DATE</b> <b>October 15, 2003</b>		
<b>GROUP</b> <b>3734</b>		

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS.**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		<b>International Search Report dated January 19, 2004</b>

**EXAMINER**

**DATE CONSIDERED**

**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation is considered, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.